IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

U. S. Serial No.:   08/822,661
Filing Date: 03/24/97
Inventors: Jennings, et al
Title: DIGITAL CERTIFICATE

<u>Responsive to Office Action Dated **05/20/1999**</u>

4201 SW Vacuna
Portland, OR 97219
Date: November 22, 1999

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
 and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

<u>AMENDMENT</u>

<u>In the Claims:</u>

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Amended)   A method of creating a digitally stored digital certificate, the method comprising the steps:

<u>selecting a given character set;</u>
<u>designating from said given character set a protected area border character;</u>
<u>providing said certificate as a sequence of members of said given character set;</u>
defining in said certificate a protected area <u>as members of said given character set located between one and a next occurrence of said protected area border character;</u>
storing at least one digital component in said protected area;
calculating a digital value as a function of digital content stored in said protected area; and
storing a digital signature in said certificate but outside said protected area, said digital signature being encrypted and a function of said value.

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